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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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SEP 26 2003

Applicant : Kazutoyo MAEHIRO

Group Art Unit: 2171

Appln. No. : 09/820,554

Technology Center 2100

Examiner: T. Chen

Filed : March 29, 2001

For : Membership Information Retrieval Server, User Terminal, Message -
Sending Terminal, and Method for Retrieving Membership Information
and for Sending Message

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the information disclosure statement filed on May 7, 2002, applicant calls the following documents, which were cited in a European Search Report dated August 28, 2003, for corresponding Application No. EP 01 30 2943, to the Examiner's attention:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,023,729 to SAMUEL et al., which issued on February 8, 2000;
- (2) International Publication No. WO 00/67224, which was published on November 9, 2000;
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 5,828,843 to GRIMM et al., which issued on October 27, 1998;
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 5,963,951 to COLLINS, which issued on October 5, 1999;
- (5) "AOL Instant Messenger, User's Guide", America Online, Inc., February 25, 1998,

<www.aim.aol.com/beta/uguide/index.html>; and

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(6) "Readme of archive for TNT 1.7", America Online, Inc., December 4, 1998, www.mit.edu/afs/athena/system/pmax_u14/srzd.74/usr/sipb/src/tnt/tnt-1.7.t.

The category of relevance and pertinent portions of these documents are as noted on the attached copy of the European Search Report. Applicant notes that document (1) was previously submitted with an information disclosure statement filed in the instant application, and thus, a copy of the same is not attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider and cite these documents. Copies of the above-noted documents (except document (1)) are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to applicant with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Since this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to issuance of an Office Action on the merits, applicant has provided below a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and thus, believes that no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this document. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any necessary additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), the undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. Of course, this statement does not apply to

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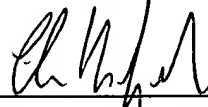
information that has previously been cited by applicant or the Examiner in the present application as that information is already of record and no certification is necessary.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazutoyo MAEHIRO

Reg. No. 40,067



Bruce H. Bernstein

Reg. No. 29,027

September 25, 2003
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